

Claims

1. A frame for holding sheet material taut, comprising a support as well as two legs which extend essentially parallel to one another transversely from the support, on which  
5 legs fixing means are provided for fixing, each one of the opposing edges of a piece of sheet material thereto, characterised in that at least one of the legs can be moved along the support towards and away from the other leg.

2. Frame according to Claim 1, wherein compensation means are provided to  
10 compensate for stretch and/or shrinkage of the piece of sheet material fixed between the legs.

3. Frame according to Claim 1, wherein the compensation means comprise a spring member, one end of which is able to bear on a fixed point in the frame and the other end of  
15 which interacts with the movable leg.

4. Frame according to Claim 2, wherein the compensation means comprise a securing member that can be secured in various positions along the support, the spring member extending between said securing member and the movable leg.  
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5. Frame according to Claim 1, wherein the support comprises an I-shaped or upside-down T-shaped beam and the securing member comprises a movable clamp around the bottom flange of the support.

25 6. Frame according to Claim 5, wherein the clamp has a slider with respect to which the movable leg can be slid, which slider has a stop to limit the sliding movement of the leg with respect to the clamp.

30 7. Frame according to Claim 3, wherein the spring member has a helical spring as well as a guide extending through the helical spring, which guide is attached at one end to the clamp such that it can slide and at the opposing end is fixed to the leg.

8. Frame according to Claim 7, wherein the guide has a stop that interacts with the

clamp, such that the helical spring is pretensioned between the clamp and the leg if the stop is in contact with the clamp.

9. Frame according to Claim 1, wherein the movable leg has a base provided with  
5   rollers that can be rolled relative to the beam.

10. Frame according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the legs have contact means for feeding an electric current through sheet metal material.

10       11. Device for carrying out an electrochemical treatment on sheet metal, comprising a container for a liquid bath as well as a frame for holding sheet material taut, comprising a support as well as two legs which extend essentially parallel to one another transversely from the support, on which legs fixing means are provided for fixing, each one of the opposing edges of a piece of sheet material thereto, characterised in that at least one of the  
15   legs can be moved along the support towards and away from the other leg.

12. Device according to Claim 11, wherein said container is embodied to contain a liquid bath comprising chromic acid.